GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN J & K
DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;RAMESHWAR DUDI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists activities and suicidal attacks in J&K have increased during the last three months and particularly after the September 11, 2001 blasts in America;

(b) if so, the details thereof, incident-wise;

(c) the number of civilians/security personnel/militants killed/injured in each of these incidents;

(d) the details of loss of the Government/public property suffered in each of these incidents;

(e) the number of terrorist organizations and their members active in the State and the number of infiltrators killed during this period;

(f) the action taken by the Government to check their activities;

(g) whether the Prime Minister has sought US intervention in the matter;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the outcome thereof; and

(i) the other steps taken by the Government to deal with terrorism in the State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (i): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO
(i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.21 FOR ANSWER ON TUESDAY, THE 20TH NOVEMBER,2001.

(a): Terrorist violence in J&K has generally remained at the same level in the last few months, however, the security forces have been applying continuous pressure on the terrorists and have achieved significant successes by killing 616 terrorists from August to October 2001.

(b) and (c): As reported by the J&K Government, the total number of terrorist related incidents during August to October 2001 were 1365 in which 273 civilians, 163 security forces and 616 terrorists (of whom 184 were foreign mercenaries) were killed. Major terrorist incidents in J&K after 11 September 2001 are indicated below:-

i) Attack on SOG Camp, Handwara

Nine SOG personnel were killed and 11 others injured in a Fidayeen attack on SOG Camp, Handwara, Kupwara on 17.09.2001One Fidayeen terrorist was also killed.

ii) Attack on State Assembly in Srinagar on 1.10.2001

In a major assault on the symbol of democracy, terrorists launched a fidayeen attack on the State Assembly in Srinagar killing 39 persons and injuring 60 others. The terrorists initially blew up a car bomb at the gate of the Assembly premises. Later on, 3 terrorists holed up inside the assembly premises were killed in a fierce encounter with the security forces. Altogether 4 terrorists were killed. The terrorist outfit, JeM claimed the responsibility for the attack.

iii) Unsuccessful Attack on Air Force Base Station in J&K

Four LeT terrorists wearing Khaki uniform opened indiscriminate fire at the security guards at the entrance gate of Air Force Station, Avantipura (Pulwama) on 22.10.2001 in their unsuccessful bid to enter the campus. The sentries retaliated killing all the four terrorists. One sentry and one civilian were also killed and three security force personnel and one civilian got injured in the exchange of fire.

iv) Attack on Police Station (in J&K)

One JeM terrorist entered the bathroom of PS Chadoora (Budgam) on 26.10.2001 and started firing, causing injuries to two CRPF personnel, including a SI. Army/CRPF cordoned the area and killed the terrorist in the encounter.

v) Misuse of Religious places by militants

During an operation carried out by Army/Police, one militant holed up in a mosque in village Panzan, Chadoora (Budgam) on 29.10.2001 was killed and 01 AK Rifle with 04 Magazines were recovered.The slain foreign militant had sought shelter in the mosque. The security forces, maintaining restraint carried out the operation for about 48 hours to avoid damage to the religious place.

vi) Attack on Army Camp, Anantnag:

Four Army Jawans were killed and five others injured when a fidayeen group attacked 36 RR camp at Peth Dayalgam (Anantnag) on 3 November 2001. One LeT terrorist was killed after encounter.

vii) Attack on Army convoy at Chenab bridge at Maitra, Ramban:

Ten army personnel and four civilians were killed and 29 army personnel and 3 civilians injured when terrorists threw grenades and fired upon army personnel at Ramban suspension bridge on 18 November 2001.Two terrorists were also killed in the ensuing fire fight. LeT outfit has owned the responsibility for the attack.

(d): Such information is not compiled by the Government of India.However, as reported by the State Government, the destruction of Government/public property by the militants during August to October 2001 is as given below:-

Destruction of property by militants August to October 2001

Government buildings	4
Educational buildings	0
Bridges	0
Hospitals	0

(e): The major Pak ISI sponsored Pan-Islamic Jehadi terrorist outfits are Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), Lasker-e-Toiba (LeT), Harkatut-ul Mujahideen (HUM), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Al-Umar-Majahideen (AUM), Al-Badr and Jammu & Kashmir Islamic Front (JKIF) et Available estimates place the number of terrorists active in the State of J&K as between 3000 and 4000.

A large number of the terrorists active in the state of J&K have infiltrated from Pakistan and PoK.Even indigenous terrorists receive training in camps mostly based in Pak/PoK and infiltrate back into the state.During August to October 2001, 616 militants were killed.

(f): To contain cross border terrorism perpetrated by the Pak ISI in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government, conjointly with the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management to check infiltration; pro-active action against terrorists within J&K; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an institutional frame-work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels; improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces; and action as per law against over ground supporters of the terrorists.

The State Police in consultation with other security forces have evolved certain standard practices for the field units of security forces for responding appropriately and effectively to fidayeen attacks.

The strategies, tactics and dynamic deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in Operation Groups at various levels.

Apart from the above measures militant outfits, namely JeM, LeT, HM, HUM, AUM and JKIF have since been declared as terroris organizations on 24.10.2001 under Section 18 of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance 2001 [No.9 of 2001].

(g) & (h): Government has not sought the intervention of any country in solving the problem of cross border terrorism in J&K.However, Government has used every opportunity to apprise the international community including the United States, of Pakistan`s support to and sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Following the fidayeen attack on 1st October 2001 on J&K Assembly building in Srinagar, the Prime Minister had conveyed to the United States and other friendly countries, the sense of anguish felt by the people of India at this terrorist attack.

On 12th October 2001, the United States placed Jaish-e-Mohammed the group which had claimed responsibility for this incident, on the list of terrorist organisations of the US Department of Treasury under the Presidential Executive order of 23rd September 2001.

(i) The Central Government in concert with the State Government is continuing with its multi-pronged strategy to curb militancy/terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. This strategy, besides having a security dimension, also concentrates on accelerating economic development and redressing genuine grievances of the people. The Government has also kept its doors open for talks with all those in J&K who eschew the path of violence.